

# Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes in the Fight!

## Radio Up

*Senior Airman Michael Lee, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron ground radio maintainer, pieces together an ultra high frequency radio used for line of sight tactical radio communications used for ground operations at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, June 21. Airman Lee is deployed from Lajes Field, Azores. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)*



## I Say “Doctor” You Say “Medico Doutor”

### *Cultural differences between U.S. and Portuguese medicine*

**By Captain Nicole A. Lucas**  
65th Medical Support Squadron

When in another country seeking medical care, it can sometimes be an intimidating experience; especially for someone who doesn't speak the native language. Some of the differences in the medical care here seem extreme, such as the actual medical facilities themselves. The local hospital in Angra looks old and the amenities are not as great as what we're used to (i.e. televisions and telephones in every room). However, there is more than meets the eye to our host nation medical care.

The Portuguese doctors are highly skilled and highly educated individuals with state of the art equipment. Portugal practices Socialized Medicine which means they do not discriminate against the poor and there is no insurance company to act as the 'middle man' determining the type of care received. This allows the hospitals to monitor patients as 'in-patients', they

release the patients when they are medically ready, not when the insurance company (with zero medical education) says they are ready. This causes a chain reaction of good events because there are less law suits which causes less paperwork and more 'hands on' time between doctors and patients.

In our fast paced environment in the United States, we often forget that medical care is important. We want to be healed immediately and we want to get the heck out of the hospital. This creates a frustrating environment for everyone here because the Portuguese health care system wants to ensure we're actually feeling better, and we just want out. We're fine with being discharged prematurely and sometimes end up having complications due to not knowing exactly how to nurse our own wounds properly. This doesn't happen in Portugal because after being discharged, patients go to the on call medical centers to be followed up by a nurse for proper care of wounds.

Convalescent leave is also a much better option here in Portugal. When a mother has a child for instance, she is granted six months off of work (with pay) and then returns to six hour days with two hours a day to nurse her child for another year. This is not something you typically see in the States. The military for example gives mothers six weeks of convalescent leave and then minimal breast feeding times during the duty day.

The Medical Group wants to make the medical experience as pleasant as possible with a patient liaison to accompany patients to appointments and translate. The Referral Management Center can explain Host Nation services. The Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator also assists with information on host nation care.

The TRICARE Operations Patient Administration Flight also stands by to assist at any time. Feel free to stop by the clinic with questions regarding health care.



## Motorcycle safety important

**By Master Sgt. Sean Lehman**  
AFN Det. 6, Associate First Sergeant

For those of you who've recently arrived on Terceira during the summer PCS season, welcome! As I'm sure you've already noticed, Terceira provides service members and their families with wonderful scenic vistas and extraordinary ocean views that you'll likely never get the opportunity to experience again. As a Lajes resident for nearly three years, and a motorcycle rider for nearly three decades, I've also discovered that the island's summer months also provide for excellent chances to get out and explore the island in a unique and rewarding way.

When you kick the winter dust off your Honda or Hog and prep for a summer full of coastal and inland rides, there are of course several things to keep in mind to ensure you have a safe trip. Hopefully everyone who gets on a bike is already fully aware of the rules and regulations regarding what to wear to be safe as well as seen, so despite its clear importance, I won't rehash the typical safety information that anyone who has been in the military for more than ten minutes has undoubtedly seen on AFN. However, the island itself does have some very unique safety challenges that you definitely need to be aware of.

First of all, every corner on Terceira is a blind corner. I, like yourself, truly enjoy the feeling of leaning into turns and accelerating around curves. That feeling comes with a price on local roads as you literally have no idea what could be hiding on the other side of the bend. Since local vehicles are often parked in the road, you never know if you'll find a car, truck, tractor, or even horse cart waiting for you as you come out of a corner. So slow

down for curves, and sacrifice a bit of speed for security to give you enough of a chance to swerve on the back end if need be.

In addition, you have probably already noticed that the island has no shortage of livestock. Cows, horses and even goats often wander the roads at will, creating an obstacle course of both animals and what many of us affectionately refer to as "brown ice". With most of the roads lined with rock walls combined with the aforementioned blind turns, there is almost never an opportunity to dodge out of the way. Which means your only course of action is to maintain a slow enough speed to stop if necessary. Also, be on the lookout for rocks that have fallen out of the walls and tumbled into the street.

Finally, the scenic views themselves can be hazardous. While riding along the narrow coastal roads, I've often caught myself gazing at an especially magnificent cliff face, or momentarily mesmerized by the majestic waves crashing against the coral outcroppings. That those momentary distractions can prove costly, especially when you consider the number of hazards that can be waiting in the road just ahead of you.

While this list is by no means exhaustive, it hopefully provides you with something to think about before you set out to explore the island on your motorcycle. By all means take every opportunity to enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime postcard views that Terceira offers, but bear in mind, you'll also find hazards that you'd never expect back home. For information on beginner and experienced rider courses, contact the 65th ABW safety office at 535-6214.

### First Sergeant Corner

#### Be an Ambassador

The summer months are here and there will be tons of things to do on the island. As you interact with our gracious Portuguese hosts, ask yourself if you are setting the example of an "American Ambassador."

Because we are blessed with the title "American," everything we say and do is watched with an often critical eye. The role each of us plays everyday is critical to the success of Lajes and to the reputation of the United States. Go out and enjoy all that Terceira has to offer, but be sure to use a little common sense and a lot of humility because being a true "American Ambassador" will only strengthen our bonds as a nation.

—Master Sgt. Monte Waters  
65th Operations Support Squadron



**535-4240**

**[actionline@lajes.af.mil](mailto:actionline@lajes.af.mil)**

*The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command*



**Col. JL Briggs**

*should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or [actionline@lajes.af.mil](mailto:actionline@lajes.af.mil).*

**Col. JL Briggs**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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## Good to Know

### Records Management

There will be a Records Management class from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 31 at the Base Education Office Auditorium. It is designed to reinforce training for unit Chief of Records/Records Custodians. Contact Staff Sgt. Andre Booker at 535-2911 or e-mail [lajesfieldbaserecordsmanagment.brm@lajes.af.mil](mailto:lajesfieldbaserecordsmanagment.brm@lajes.af.mil).

### Clothing Drive

Firefighters are hosting a clothing drive for the Angra Christian Center. Clothing in good condition may be donated by dropping it off at the fire station building T-717 or by contacting Airman 1st Class Mull at 295-549-169 or Airman 1st Class Magtanong at 963-622-362. Clothing will be accepted until Aug. 10.

### Government Communication Issues

For 24 hour support on any NIPRnet computer issues contact the USAFE Consolidated Helpdesk at 535-2222. NIPRnet account creations: Contact your Squadron ISSO. For any DSN Phones, SIPRnet, Blackberries, LMR, or other official communications issues contact the 65th CS/Comm Focal Point at 535-2662 during Duty hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and After hours contact 965-448-802.

### Personal Communication

Home telephone and DSL internet, contact Telepac at 808-207-070. For Personal Cell phone issues contact your local provider: Vodaphone: 16912 option 4 for assistance, say English and they will get somebody to help Tmn: 1696 option 9 for English

### Clinic Closure

The medical clinic will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon July 17 for the 65th Medical Operations Squadron change of command ceremony.

# Family "dream team" More behind care packages

By Maj. Christopher Nutting  
65th Comptroller Squadron commander

I initially wrote this article while deployed two years ago. As our current ops tempo remains high and more Lajes Airmen are deploying than ever leaving their families to support the mission this message seems even more relevant today. Not only do Airmen deploy, but their families "deploy with them" and their support needs to be appreciated.

I opened my care package and while I was rummaging through, mentally asked myself the question: What's in the box? Deep down I was hoping for some new family photos I could put up in my room, along with the latest issues of my favorite magazines. I hoped it had that penny candy from the store on the corner and my favorite drink mixes to make those never-ending bottles of water go down a little smoother. When I opened the box it was like Christmas. To the untrained eye, the package was nothing special. It held snacks and goodies everyone thought I would like, more than enough for me, but my family knew they had to send enough to share.

It had the requisite hygiene items and reading material. Of course, there were the family photos I've been bugging them about. It even had the special treats the gang knows I love but always forget to ask for. My family simply sent me what I asked for, plus what they thought I would like ... so was this just a normal care package? Being just a normal care package couldn't have been farther from the truth. It said "U.S. Postal Service" on the outside but inside it screamed, "Dad, you're doing great; get it done and hurry home. In the mean time, don't worry 'cuz we've always got your back!"

We call these boxes "care packages" because they signify how families and friends care for us. Sending a simple

box or package tells us they really do care – about our physical welfare and even more important, our mental well-being. As supervisors we have to provide this same support for our troops; sometimes sharing our care package is the pick-me-up an Airmen whose family cannot send packages needs. A care package can come in many shapes, sizes and forms.

My simple box spoke volumes because it told me my family supported me from afar and they understood why I volunteered to spend a year away from home. This is just one of the many reasons why my family is my "Dream Team;" it just doesn't get any better than that.

One of the often quoted sayings we hear states, "We recruit military members, but we retain families."

I feel blessed to have their support. What I ultimately learned is my family understood my responsibilities – that "daddy's job" required him to put on a uniform every day and stay away from home for long periods of time. Balancing family responsibilities with my Air Force commitment is a constant struggle, but one that is made easier with support from family, friends and supervisors. I may have been physically separated, but emotionally and mentally I was never closer. Does absence really make the heart grow fonder?

Possibly, but I couldn't love them more when I am separated than by the simple touches fondly placed and gratefully received inside that care package."

I can never say thanks near enough ... but I can say thanks very often. And so can you. As we continue our expeditionary operations always remember that putting your mission first includes putting your family first as well ... we need to tell them so.

I appreciate my "Dream Team" and hopefully you take the time to appreciate yours too.

## Lajes Salutes

Kudos to Lajes Promotees for the month of July: To the rank of Airman 1st Class: **Max Dane**, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Johnathan Goodwin**, 65th CES. To Senior Airman: **William Gray**, 65th Operations Support Squadron; To Staff Sergeant: **William Clark**, 65th CES; **Eric Green**, 65th Air Base Wing; **Fabien Trujillo**; 65th OSS; and **Anthony Flores**, 65th Mission Support Group. To technical sergeant: **Daniel Jirsa**, 65th Communication Squadron; **Stacie Boritz**, 65th OSS; **James Gaylor**, 65th OSS; and **Colleen Armstrong**, Det. 6, Air Force News

Agency: To master sergeant: **Brian Cain**, 65th Security Forces Squadron. To senior master sergeant: **Patrick Flint**, 65th CES.

Congratulations to **Senior Airman Elijah Reynolds**, 65th Communications Squadron, the Sharp Award winner for the Airman category for June. The Sharp Award for the NCO category was given to **Tech. Sgt. Latricia Palmer**, 65th CS.

Kudos to the **65th Operations Support Squadron**, winner of the June ATLAS Award.





Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>11 a.m.</b> Red Pin Games, bowling alley <b>3 p.m.</b> 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Assumption of Command, T-733 <b>6 p.m.</b> Build Your Own Pasta Buffet, TORC <b>7 p.m.</b> The Chronicles of Narnina: Prince Caspian (PG) <b>7 p.m.</b> Teen Night Out, LYP <b>10 p.m.</b> The Strangers (R)	<b>10 a.m.</b> Sailing Trip, ODR <b>2:30 p.m.</b> games for 25 cents, bowling <b>3 p.m.</b> Missoula Theater Performance, community center <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Members Texas Hold 'Em, TORC <b>7 p.m.</b> The Chronicles of Narnina: Prince Caspian (PG) <b>10 p.m.</b> The Strangers (R)	<b>8 a.m.</b> Bottom Fishing, ODR <b>9 a.m.</b> Evangelical Service <b>9 a.m.</b> CCD <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Mass <b>Noon</b> Praise Service <b>2 p.m.</b> The Chronicles of Narnina: Prince Caspian (PG) <b>2:30 p.m.</b> 25 cents per game, bowling alley <b>7 p.m.</b> The Strangers (R)	<b>6 a.m.</b> Oceanview open for breakfast <b>10 a.m.</b> Library open - check out a book and earn Extreme Summer points <b>11 a.m.</b> Dining Facility features lunch specials <b>5:20 p.m.</b> Body Sculpting Class, fitness center <b>6 p.m.</b> Spin Class, fitness center cycle room	<b>10 a.m.</b> EDIS Playgroup, LYP <b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store now open Tuesdays <b>5 p.m.</b> Buck Night Bowling <b>5:20 p.m.</b> Step Class, fitness center <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Mongolian BBQ, TORC <b>6 p.m.</b> Spin class, fitness center cycle room	<b>8 a.m.</b> 3-Day TAP Seminar <b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store open <b>Noon</b> Pool open <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Framing Class, \$40 Arts & Crafts <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Metal Embossing Class, \$40, Arts & Crafts Center <b>6 p.m.</b> Open Volleyball <b>6:30 p.m.</b> 35 cents each for hot wings, TORC	<b>11 a.m.</b> Bowl two games get one free for military members in uniform until 1:30 p.m. <b>Noon</b> Pool open <b>2 p.m.</b> Thrift Store open until 6 p.m. <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Framing and Metal Embossing Class <b>7 p.m.</b> The Chronicles of Narnina (PG) <b>9 p.m.</b> Karaoke, TORC

## Community Events

**Bullfights:** 6:30 p.m. Today, Porto Judeu de Cima; 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Porto Judeu de Cima.

## DoDDS

**Free/Reduced School Lunch Program:** Parents interested in the Free/Reduced School Lunch Program for school year 2008-2009 should contact the School Liaison Office, 535-1314. Families who participated in the program last year need to reapply. Applications are available at the School Liaison Office and the Lajes American School. To enroll complete the application and submit it along with a copy of the most recent LES or pay stub to the liaison office or the school.

## A&FRC 535-4138

**Ten Steps to a Federal Job:** 9 a.m. to noon July 24. This workshop is for those trying to get hired with the federal government. Learn the ins and outs of navigating the federal job system including effective ways to research federal job listings, interpreting and understanding the duties, as well as keywords and qualifications in job announcements.

**Interviewing Skills:** 9 to 11:30 a.m. July 30. Preparation is key to a successful job interview. Learn about the different types of interviews, how to prepare for the "tough" questions, how to research the company, and more.

**Sponsorship Training:** 10 to 11 a.m. July 25. Learn more about your duties and responsibilities of being a sponsor as well as other must know items.

**1, 2, 3 Magic Parenting Workshop:** 6 to 7:30 p.m. July 29, Aug, 5 and 12. A class for parents with 2-12 year olds.

## A&FRC 535-4138

**Transition Assistance Program Seminar:** Prepare for transition to the civilian sector at this workshop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday to July 18 at the A&FRC. TAP is a workshop for Military members, dependants, and civilians who are interested in retiring or separating. This 3-day workshop offers job hunting skills, resume building, tips on preparing for an interview and VA benefits.

## Job Opportunities

**Career Transition Trainer Needed:** Inverness Technologies is seeking a part time career transition trainer at Lajes to facilitate TAP workshops. The candidate will perform 6-10 workshops a year (approx. one per month/every other month) helping military members transition into the civilian workforce. Excellent opportunity for spouses of military or DoD personnel. Must know the U.S. job market and have experience in job search techniques. Experience in training, career counseling or HR desirable. Training topics include: skills assessment, resume preparation, interview techniques, and job searching. Send cover letter and resume to [careers@invernesstechnologies.com](mailto:careers@invernesstechnologies.com).  
**NAF Openings:** Youth Center: Recreation Aid, Recreation Assistant, and School Age Program Assistant; Community Center Recreation Aid; Library Aid; and Child Development Program Assistant. For details, visit <http://www.lajes-services.com/hro.htm>.

**AAFES jobs:** AAFES is now accepting applications for a theater supervisor (vacancy number H-024975-2008) and exchange safety and security assistant (vacancy number H-024900-2008). Theater worker must be able to work night shift. Click on [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com).

## Youth Soccer Registration

Registration for youth soccer is ongoing at the LYP through Aug. 10. There will be a Skills Day Aug. 16. Games begin Aug. 30. Start Smart Soccer (introduction) program available for 3 and 4 year olds. Age Groups: 5-6 Pee Wee League; 7-8 Bantam League; 9-11 Junior league; 12-14 Senior League; and 15-18 All Star league. Cost is \$35. Coaches and officials needed. Call Scotte Mendiola at 535-1197.

## Fitness Center 535-6126

**Family 5K Fun Run:** 9:15 a.m. July 26 at the Chace Fitness Center.

**Equipment and Workout Orientation Class:** The class is for beginners who are interested about fitness equipment and basic workouts. Classes offered 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Maximum group size of 6 people, ages 16 and up.

## Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to [news@lajes.af.mil](mailto:news@lajes.af.mil) by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at [Lajesads.com](http://Lajesads.com). This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

For Sale: 27 in Sharp T.V. Great T.V. Only three years old. Asking only \$150. Call 968-841-819 or 295-516-454.

For Sale: Small Gas can. Unused, asking only 13 Euros. Call 968-841-819 or 295-516-454

For Sale: "1990" Japanese Honda Inspire (Honda Accord Equivalent) Awesome car, runs great, good on gas! This is not an island bomb! Asking \$3,000 or best offer. Call 968-841-819 or 295-516-454.

Wanted: Want to buy a reliable scooter upon arrival to Lajes mid July Electric start. Must be in cond that can be reg/operated on base. Reply to Dan: [banjodan@hotmail.com](mailto:banjodan@hotmail.com)

Available: Need a housekeeper? Elisa has been doing a great job for us but it is time for us to PCS. Call 295-813-670 or 967-577-024.